

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A compound eye imaging system, comprising:
at least three optical blocks; ~~and~~
an imaging element for picking up object images formed by the optical blocks in
imaging ranges provided for each optical block~~[[,]]; and~~
a shielding member which prevents light from each optical block from reaching an
imaging range other than the imaging range corresponding to each optical block,
wherein optical axes of the optical blocks intersect each other, and
the compound eye imaging system measures the distance to an object based on outputs
from a pair of imaging ranges in the imaging element, which correspond to any one pair of the at
least three optical blocks.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound eye imaging system according to Claim 1,
wherein all the optical axes of the optical blocks roughly intersect each other at one point.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) A compound eye imaging system according to Claim 1, wherein a
plurality of imaging blocks, which comprise the imaging ranges that are different from each
other, are formed in the imaging element.

5. (Original) A compound eye imaging system according to Claim 4, wherein the imaging element is constructed so that the plurality of imaging blocks are formed on a single substrate.

6. (Original) A compound eye imaging system according to Claim 5, wherein the imaging element is constructed by forming the plurality of imaging blocks on a single semiconductor substrate.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound eye imaging system according to Claim 1, wherein the optical blocks are unified.

8. (Previously Presented) A compound eye imaging system according to Claim 1, further comprising optical action surfaces comprising the optical blocks, wherein at least one of the optical action surfaces has an aspherical shape.

9. (Previously Presented) A compound eye imaging system according to Claim 8, wherein an optical action surface comprising at least one of the optical blocks has a rotational asymmetric aspherical shape.

10. (Previously Presented) A compound eye imaging system according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the optical action surfaces comprising the optical blocks is a diffraction action surface.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Canceled).

13. (Previously Presented) An imaging device according to Claim 1, wherein an average value of distances to an object is measured based on outputs from multiple pairs of imaging ranges for picking up an image of the object through multiple pairs of optical blocks in the imaging element.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Previously Presented) An electronic equipment, comprising the compound eye imaging system according to Claim 1.

16. (Previously Presented) A compound eye imaging system, comprising:
a plurality of optical blocks; and
an imaging element for picking-up object images formed by the optical blocks in imaging ranges provided for each optical block,

wherein optical axes of the optical blocks intersect each other on the object side, and
each imaging range corresponding to each optical block in the imaging element is
formed on a single semiconductor substrate.